(viii) Evaluation of methods for rehabilitation of surface and sub-surface water resource structures.

Linking of North-Eastern Brahmaputra river with Farakka

761. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a feasibility study regarding linking of North-Eastern Brahmaputra river with Farakka in West Bengal *via*-Bangladesh;

(b) whether State Governments have been consulted in this regard because this will be a short route for linking the above river; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Central Water Commission in 1982 had prepared a Feasibility Report on Jogighopa Barrage and Brahmaputra-Ganga Link Canal Project flowing through Bangladesh by gravity, as the first phase of development/augmentation of the flows of the Ganga during dry season by diversion of Brahmaputra waters to the Ganga. The second phase of the proposal envisages creation of backup storages by construction of two dams on major northern tributaries of the Brahmaputra river, *viz.*, Dihang and Subansiri. The proposal was placed before the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission. However, due to reservations expressed by the Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, the proposal was not pursued further.

Improvement of water supply in Northern India

762. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the major States in Northern India are likely to face a gruelling shortage of water during the current year;